



Established 1904

**The Leinster School of Music & Drama**

**Speech & Drama  
Grade Syllabus  
2022 - 2023**

The Leinster School of Music & Drama  
Griffith College Dublin  
South Circular Road  
Dublin 8

# The Leinster School of Music & Drama

## Speech & Drama Grade Syllabus

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## INTRODUCTORY GRADE

**Exam Duration: 5 Minutes**

*Candidates must be over 4 years of age.*

*An overall mark and certificate will be awarded to successful candidates.*

Presentation	Notes																								
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<p>Candidates will be expected to present an item from the list below and hold a conversation about the chosen item with the examiner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photograph</li> <li>• Book</li> <li>• Toy</li> <li>• Movie</li> </ul> <p><i>The conversation should not exceed 1 Minute.</i></p>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 6</p>																								
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## PRELIMINARY GRADE

**Exam Duration: 8 Minutes**

*Candidates must be over 5 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	40
Own Choice Poem	40
Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																								
Candidates will be expected to formally present and conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their grade.	See Exam Handbook Page 5																								
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**PRIMARY GRADE****Exam Duration: 8 Minutes***Candidates must be over 6 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	40
Own Choice Poem	40
Questions	10

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**GRADE 1****Exam Duration: 10 Minutes***Candidates must be over 7 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Piece	35
Own Choice Piece	35
Theory	10
Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																								
Candidates will be expected to formally present and conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their grade.	See Exam Handbook Page 5																								
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1. Deliver a passage of <b>Prose</b> from memory. <i>Prose Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds or no more than 150 words.</i>	See Exam Handbook Page 6																								
2. A <b>Mime</b> based on a Nursery Rhyme from the following list: - <i>Mime Performance should not exceed 1 Minute</i>	See Exam Handbook Page 6																								
<table> <tbody> <tr> <td>Little Miss Muffet</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Jack Horner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Had a Little Lamb</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hey Diddle Diddle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Incy Wincy Spider</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Little Miss Muffet	Little Jack Horner	Mary Had a Little Lamb	Hey Diddle Diddle	Incy Wincy Spider																				
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3. A <b>contrasting poem</b> of their own choice. <i>Poem Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds.</i>	See Exam Handbook Page 6																								
Theory	Notes																								
Demonstrate an understanding of the following:	See Exam Handbook Page 11																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Organs of Speech: Name and show their position.</li> <li>The meaning of Good Speech</li> </ul>																									
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## GRADE 2

**Exam Duration: 12 Minutes**

*Candidates must be over 8 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Piece	30
Own Choice Piece	30
Prepared Reading	10
Theory	10
Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																								
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<p>Candidates will be expected to speak from memory one poem from the following list:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Sitting Still Time</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Peter Dixon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Hello, Summer!</td> <td>Greg Pincus</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. The Animal Store</td> <td>Rachel Field</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Monkey</td> <td>Herbert Kretzmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. The Cow</td> <td>Robert Louis Stevenson</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Absent</td> <td>Bernard Young</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. I Wonder why Dad is so Thoroughly Mad</td> <td>Jack Prelutsky</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. The Great Blue Whale</td> <td>Kerry Hardie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. How was School</td> <td>Lindsey McRae</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10. Ruling The World</td> <td>Sandra Horn</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11. Dad and the Doctors Surgery</td> <td>Annette Kossieris</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12. Anyone Seen My...?</td> <td>Max Fatchen</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	1. Sitting Still Time	Peter Dixon	2. Hello, Summer!	Greg Pincus	3. The Animal Store	Rachel Field	4. Monkey	Herbert Kretzmer	5. The Cow	Robert Louis Stevenson	6. Absent	Bernard Young	7. I Wonder why Dad is so Thoroughly Mad	Jack Prelutsky	8. The Great Blue Whale	Kerry Hardie	9. How was School	Lindsey McRae	10. Ruling The World	Sandra Horn	11. Dad and the Doctors Surgery	Annette Kossieris	12. Anyone Seen My...?	Max Fatchen	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 5</p>
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<p>Candidates will be expected to perform from memory <b>one</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Own Choice <b>Prose</b> from memory. <i>Prose Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 45 Seconds or no more than 200 words.</i></li> <li>2. A <b>Mime</b> based on one of the following list: - <i>Mime Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds.</i> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tbody> <tr><td>Stuck in the lift</td></tr> <tr><td>The Picnic</td></tr> <tr><td>Late for School</td></tr> <tr><td>The Match</td></tr> <tr><td>Disaster in the kitchen</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </li> <li>3. <b>Pre-Prepared Storytelling:</b> Invent and deliver a story based on one of the pictures in the LSMD Teacher’s Exam Guide. <i>Storytelling Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 45 Seconds.</i></li> </ol>	Stuck in the lift	The Picnic	Late for School	The Match	Disaster in the kitchen	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 6</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 6</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 7</p>																			
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<p>Candidates will be expected to prepare 2-3 pages of reading from a suitable novel.</p>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 8</p>																								

Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vowels: The 5 Vowel Signs; how a vowel is formed; why they are important to speech.</li><li>• Pause: Why we pause; give 2 reasons for pausing; give an example from their work.</li></ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12



**GRADE 3****Exam Duration: 15 Minutes***Candidates must be over 9 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Piece	30
Own Choice Piece	30
Prepared Reading	10
Theory	10
Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																								
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<p>Candidates will be expected to perform from memory <b>one</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Own Choice <b>Prose</b>. <i>Prose Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes or no more than 250 words.</i></li> <li>An extract from a <b>Play or a Monologue</b> <i>Monologue Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes or no more than 250 words.</i></li> <li>A <b>Mime</b> based on one of the following list. <i>Mime Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes.</i> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tbody> <tr><td>The Grumpy Grandad</td></tr> <tr><td>The Nervous Waiter</td></tr> <tr><td>The Angry Bus Driver</td></tr> <tr><td>The Sad Clown</td></tr> <tr><td>The Happy Child</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </li> <li><b>Unprepared Storytelling</b> - invent and deliver a story based on a picture provided by the examiner. <i>Candidates will be given 1 Minute to prepare.</i></li> </ol>	The Grumpy Grandad	The Nervous Waiter	The Angry Bus Driver	The Sad Clown	The Happy Child	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 6</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 7</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 6</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 7</p>																			
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Prepared Reading	Notes
Candidates will be expected to prepare 4-6 pages of reading from a suitable novel.	See Exam Handbook Page 8
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good communication: Posture, projection and audibility.</li> <li>• Phrasing: What is a phrase; the difference between phrasing and a phrase; why is phrasing important?</li> <li>• Rules for Reading Aloud.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.	See Exam Handbook Page 12

## GRADE 4

**Exam Duration: 15 Minutes**

Candidates must be over 10 years of age.

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	30
Own Choice Piece	30
Prepared Reading	10
Theory	10
Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																											
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<p>Candidates will be expected to perform from memory <b>one</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extract from a <b>Play or a Monologue</b>. <i>Monologue Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes or no more than 250 Words.</i></li> <li>An <b>Improvisation</b> based on one of the following list: <i>Improvisation Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes</i> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr><td>The Funfair</td></tr> <tr><td>The Birthday Party</td></tr> <tr><td>The Lost Puppy</td></tr> <tr><td>The Stanger at the Door</td></tr> <tr><td>The Artist</td></tr> <tr><td>The Babysitter</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </li> <li><b>Unprepared Storytelling</b>- Invent and deliver a story based on 3 words chosen by the examiner from the lists below. <i>Storytelling Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></li> </ol> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Emotion</th> <th style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Place</th> <th style="border-top: 1px solid black; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Character</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Fear</td><td>The Library</td><td>Bully</td></tr> <tr><td>Excitement</td><td>The Beach</td><td>Parent</td></tr> <tr><td>Nervous</td><td>The School</td><td>Hero</td></tr> <tr><td>Anger</td><td>The Airport</td><td>Dog</td></tr> <tr><td>Sadness</td><td>The Playground</td><td>Guard</td></tr> <tr><td>Surprise</td><td>The Shopping Centre</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	The Funfair	The Birthday Party	The Lost Puppy	The Stanger at the Door	The Artist	The Babysitter	Emotion	Place	Character	Fear	The Library	Bully	Excitement	The Beach	Parent	Nervous	The School	Hero	Anger	The Airport	Dog	Sadness	The Playground	Guard	Surprise	The Shopping Centre		<p>See Exam Handbook Page 7</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 8</p> <p>See Exam Handbook Page 7</p>
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Prepared Reading	Notes
Candidates will be expected to prepare 8-10 pages of reading from a suitable novel.	See Exam Handbook Page 8
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consonants: What is a consonant; how is a consonant formed; why are consonants important to good speech; give an example of a consonant.</li> <li>• Emphasis: What is emphasis; 2 ways of how you can emphasise; give an example from your prepared works.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.	See Exam Handbook Page 12

## GRADE 5

**Exam Duration: 18 Minutes**

Candidates must be over 11 years of age.

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	30
Own Choice Piece	30
Unprepared Reading	10
Theory and Questions	10

Presentation	Notes																								
<p>Candidates will be expected to formally present and conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their grade.</p>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 5</p>																								
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<b>Unprepared Prose Reading</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Candidates will be expected to provide the examiner with a suitable novel. The Examiner will choose a selection for the candidate to read aloud.	See Exam Handbook Page 8
<b>Theory</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Demonstrate an understanding of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delivery of Speech: What is rate; pace; pitch; rhythm.</li><li>• Pause in Prose: breath pause; pause for punctuation; emphatic pause; dramatic pause.</li></ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
<b>Questions</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.	See Exam Handbook Page 12

**GRADE 6****Exam Duration: 20 Minutes**Candidates must be over 12 years of age.

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	25
Set Drama	25
Prepared Mime	10
Unprepared Reading	10
Theory and Questions	20

Presentation	Notes																								
Candidates will be expected to formally present and conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their grade.	See Exam Handbook Page 5																								
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Prepared Mime	Notes
<p>Candidates will be expected to perform a mime that incorporates an exploration of <b>one</b> of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Occupational:</b> - Miming everyday tasks. (e.g. cleaning windows).</li> <li>2. <b>Character:</b>- Portraying a character type (e.g. Scrooge).</li> <li>3. <b>Abstract:</b>- Telling a story through a thought or emotion (e.g. anger).</li> </ol> <p><i>Prepared Mime Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 10
Unprepared Reading (Poetry)	Notes
The examiner will provide the candidates with a poem to read aloud.	See Exam Handbook Page 10
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mime: Occupational, character and abstract mime.</li> <li>• Pause in Verse: End of Line, Caesural and Suspensive Pause.</li> <li>• What is Rhyme: Masculine, Feminine and Eye Rhyme.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.	See Exam Handbook Page 12



**GRADE 7****Exam Duration: 22 Minutes***Candidates must be over 13 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	30
Set Drama	30
Improvisational Mime	10
Theory and Questions	20

Presentation	Notes																										
Candidates will be expected to formally present and conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate to their grade.	See Exam Handbook Page 5																										
Set Poem (Ballad)	Notes																										
Candidates will be expected to speak from memory one of the Ballads from the following list:	See Exam Handbook Page 5																										
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<i>Candidates will be expected to have read their chosen play and to answer questions relating to the work.</i>																											
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Unprepared Improvisational Mime	Notes
<p>Candidates will be required to perform a short <b>unprepared</b> improvisational mime. The mime will be based on the character from their chosen set drama. The mime title will be occupational in style. E.g.: an everyday task.</p> <p><i>Unprepared Mime Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 10
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Method of Breathing for Speaking: Breath control, posture, and relaxation.</li> <li>• Inflection: Simple upward and downward inflection.</li> <li>• The Ballad: The speaking of a Ballad.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12

**GRADE 8****Exam Duration: 25 Minutes**Candidates must be over 14 years of age.*This Grade concentrates on the work of Irish Writers.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	30
Set Drama	30
Unprepared Improvisation	10
Theory and Questions	20

Presentation	Notes																								
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Unprepared Improvisation	Notes
<p>Candidates will be required to perform a short <b>unprepared</b> improvisation based on a line given by the examiner on the day. (e.g. 'Did you hear that?')</p> <p><i>Unprepared Improvisation Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vowels: A summary of monophthongs, diphthongs, triphthongs and the neutral vowel.</li> <li>• Consonants: A summary of the classification of consonants.</li> <li>• Improvisation.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p> <p><i>Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of their poet and playwright.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12

**GRADE 9****Exam Duration: 30 Minutes**Candidates must be over 15 years of age.

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem	30
Set Drama	30
Unprepared Improvisation	10
Theory and Questions	20

Presentation	Notes																										
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Unprepared Improvisation	Notes
<p>Candidates will be required to perform a short unprepared improvisation <b>based on a phrase stemming from their chosen drama selection</b>. The line will be chosen by the examiner on the day. The line must be used within the improvisation. Candidates may perform as any character from the chosen play.</p> <p><i>Unprepared Improvisation Performance should not exceed 1 Minute 30 Seconds, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following and give examples of your explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resonance: What are the main resonators?</li> <li>• Tone: Tone Amount and Tone Quality.</li> <li>• Stage Directions: Stage Left and Right; Centre Stage; Up and Down Stage</li> <li>• The lyric and how should one approach the speaking of it.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p> <p><i>Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of their chosen poet and playwright.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12

**GRADE 10****Exam Duration: 35 Minutes***Candidates must be over 15 years of age.**Candidates must submit to the examiner their two chosen drama selections one week prior to the exam date.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Presentation	10
Set Poem (Lyric)	20
Classical Drama (Own Choice)	20
Modern Drama (Own Choice)	20
Unprepared Improvisation	10
Theory & Questions	20

Presentation	Notes																								
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Set Poem (Sonnet)	Notes																								
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Classical and Set Drama	Notes																								
<p>Candidates must perform <b>two</b> contrasting pieces of drama, one from each of the following listed categories:</p> <p>Piece 1: A <b>Classical Drama</b> Selection:- A pre 1960 published play.</p> <p>Piece 2: A <b>Modern Drama</b> Selection:- A post 1960 published play.</p> <p><i>Candidates will be expected to have read the play from which they have chosen their selection</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 9																								

Unprepared Improvisation	Notes
<p>Candidates will be required to perform a short <b>unprepared</b> improvisation. The examiner will choose a scenario on the day stemming from <b>one</b> of their chosen drama selections.</p> <p><i>Unprepared Improvisation Performance should not exceed 2 Minutes, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 11</p>
Theory	Notes
<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following and give examples of your explanation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sonnet: The structure and speaking of a sonnet.</li> <li>• What is Characterisation? Discuss in relation to your preparation and performance.</li> <li>• Theatrical Terminology: Upstaging; Masking; Corpsing; Gesture and Striking the Set.</li> <li>• History of Theatre: Discuss in relation to the period of their Classical and Modern Drama selections.</li> </ul>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 11</p>
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p> <p><i>Candidates will be expected to have a knowledge of their chosen poet and playwright.</i></p>	<p>See Exam Handbook Page 12</p>



## CERTIFICATE GRADE

**Exam Duration: 45 Minutes**

*Candidates must be over 17 years of age.*

Schedule of Maximum Marks	
Recital	50
Unprepared Speech	10
Improvisation	10
Unprepared Improvisation	10
Theory and Questions	20

Recital	Notes
<p>Candidates will be expected to present a recital, which should not exceed the 12 minute time limit and should include the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>A- Poetry</b>  <b>B- Drama Own Choice</b>  <b>C- Drama – Shakespeare</b>  <b>D- Prose</b> </p> <p><i>Candidates will be expected to have read their chosen set drama.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12
Unprepared Speech	Notes
<p>Candidates will be expected to give a short formal talk on a subject selected by the examiner on the day of the examination.</p> <p><i>Unprepared Speech should not exceed 3 Minutes, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12
Improvisation	Notes
<p>Candidates will be expected to perform a short unprepared improvisation stemming from their recital programme.</p> <p><i>Unprepared Improvisation should not exceed 2 Minutes, with 1 Minute given to prepare.</i></p>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Theory	Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The History of Shakespearean Theatre</li> <li>• Blank Verse: Meter and the speaking of blank verse.</li> <li>• Modulation.</li> </ul>	See Exam Handbook Page 11
Questions	Notes
<p>Candidates should be prepared to hold a short conversation with the examiner about the selections chosen for their examination. A thorough knowledge of their pieces is expected.</p>	See Exam Handbook Page 12

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